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AGRICULTURE PROFILE

COURTENAY DISTRICT

Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Agriculture and Food

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BRITISH COLUMBIA AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGIONS

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This series of agricultural profiles was produced by the Policy Development and Economics Division, British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The report is descriptive, and includes statistical information from a variety of sources. It is designed primarily as an information base for use by Ministry of Agriculture and Food staff in district goal identification and program planning.

The authors acknowledge with gratitude the assistance and co-operation received from individuals and organizations both public and private during the preparation of this report.

This report is one of a series covering the eighteen District Agriculturists' Office Areas of British Columbia.

Abbotsford
Chilliwack
Cloverdale
Courtenay
Cranbrook
Creston
Dawson Creek
Duncan
Fort St. John
Kamloops
Oliver
Prince George
Quesnel
Salmon Arm
Smithers
Vanderhoof
Vernon
Williams Lake

AGRICULTURAL PROFILE - COURTENAY DISTRICT

PREFACE

BACKGROUND

The British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food has divided the Province into eighteen agricultural districts, each served by a District Agriculturist. Profiles of these districts were first developed in 1980 under the Canada-British Columbia Agriculture and Rural Development Subsidiary Agreement (A.R.D.S.A).

The availability of new data from the 1981 Census of Agriculture resulted in a need for major revision. The present profile is an updated version reflecting the Census information. At the same time, the profiles have been expanded to include information not previously available, and many of the tables have been restructured to show a more detailed breakdown of different variables by farm sales.

CAVEAT

As the agricultural districts were designed to meet the needs of the farming community, and as their boundaries were developed to ensure efficient use of the District Agriculturist's time, the boundaries do not necessarily coincide with those of the Census Divisions or Subdivisions. However, statistical data from the Census of Agriculture is currently only available for Census Divisions and Subdivisions. An attempt was made, both in the original profiles and in these updates, to choose census divisions and subdivisions which most closely represent the agricultural districts. In this profile all references to the Courtenay District are to the area covered by census divisions 21-Nanaimo, 23-Alberni-Clayaquot, 25-Comox/Strathcona and 43-Mt. Waddington.

STRUCTURE

The profiles have been designed to provide a comprehensive source of statistical information on each agricultural district. They have been divided into three sections: an overview of the district, a description of the farms and farmers of the district, and a description of the farm products of the district.

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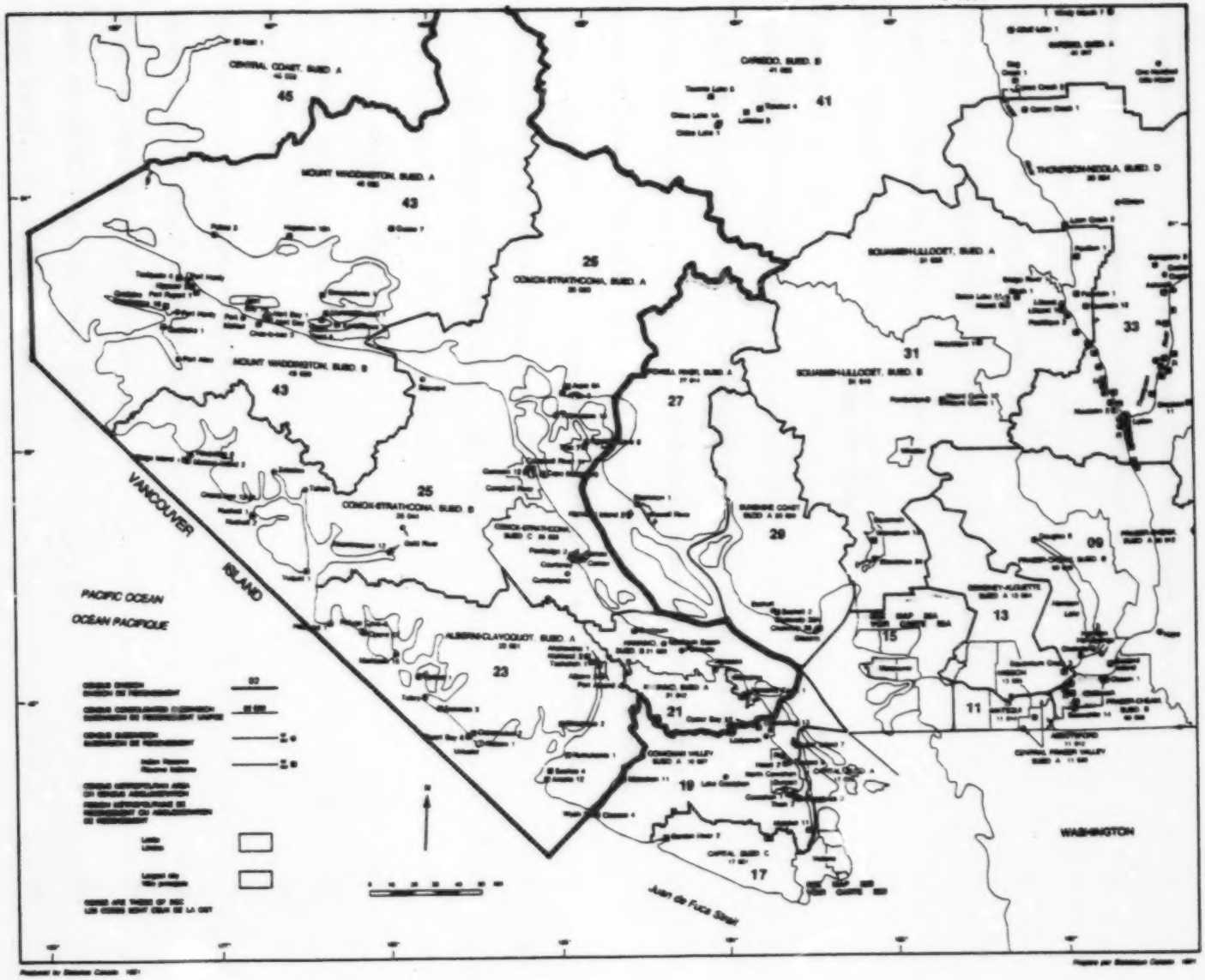
COURTENAY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT



OVERVIEW: COURTENAY DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

The Courtenay Agricultural District is in the South Coastal Agricultural Reporting Region and covers the northern three-quarters of Vancouver Island, as well as a portion of the adjacent Mainland. The district is located within the Coast Region where typical climatic conditions include abundant precipitation and mild temperatures. The area has a long frost free period and mild winters.

Census figures indicate a 1981 population of 192,950 an increase of 17.9 percent over 1976 levels. The urban/rural distribution has experienced a shift over the last few years with the urban segment now accounting for 56.3 percent of the total population down from 60.2 percent in 1976. The experienced labour force totals 93,925 with the majority employed in the defence, personal services, trade and construction sectors.

Agricultural activity in the district is varied, and involves both hobby and commercial operations. In 1981, beef production was the primary activity of 36 percent of farms, dairy, poultry, fruits and vegetables and miscellaneous specialty accounted for 7, 17, 9 and 14 percent respectively. Dairying was the primary activity of 48 percent of holdings with sales greater than $50,000 in 1981. Farm cash receipts totalled $21.8 million in 1981, 2.4 percent of the provincial total. Dairy products, beef and floriculture/nursery accounted for 44, 6.7 and 6.4 percent of receipts respectively.

Urban expansion pressures are resulting in erosion of the land base and escalating land prices. In 1983, farmland prices averaged $19,297 per hectare marginally higher than in other areas of the North Island region. High land prices create a requirement for higher returns to land use, and for land remaining in agriculture production yields need to be increased to meet high opportunity costs. In Courtenay this entails raising forage yields and increasing intensive production of vegetables and fruit.

The Courtenay District accounts for 20,827 hectares in agricultural holdings, approximately 1 percent of the provincial total. The Agricultural Land Commission had designated 73,550 hectares as potentially arable. The total number of farms enumerated in 1981 was 802. Farms are smaller than the provincial average in Courtenay where 85 percent of holdings are less than 53 hectares. Average farm size is 26 hectares compared to 109 hectares for the province as a whole. In 1981, 55 percent of farmland was classified as improved compared with 43.4 percent for the province.

Fat lamb production has significant potential in this district, because of its suitable climate and ready market. The industry currently suffers from lack of expertise, poor quality breeding stock, absence of processing facilities and predation by wildlife. Production is currently small, mostly on a part time basis, and poorly organized.

TABLE 1

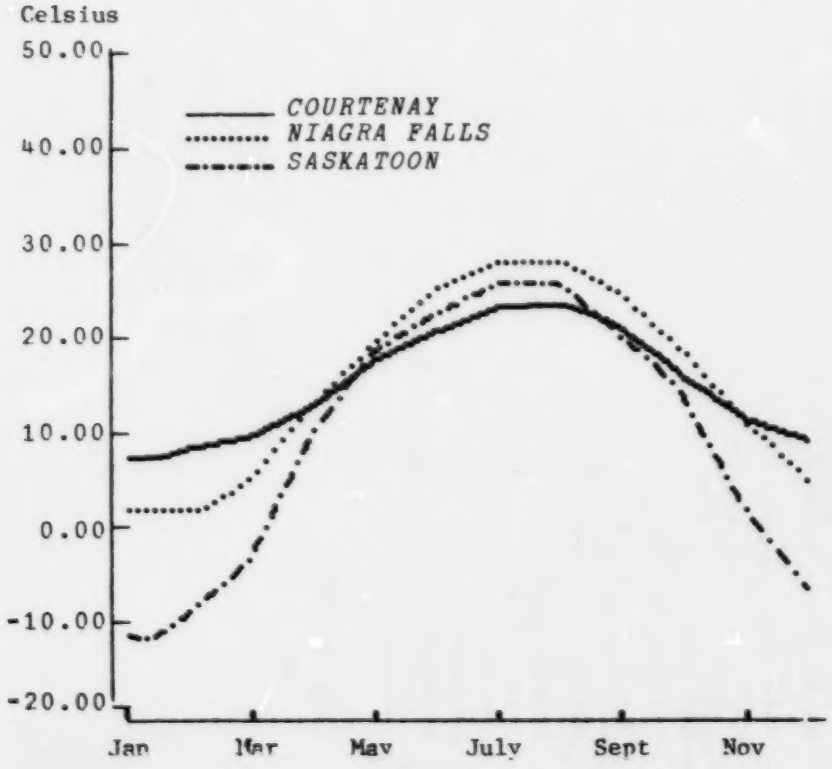
CLIMATIC DATA

COURTENAY/NIAGARA FALLS/SASKATOON COMPARED

	DUNCAN	NIAGARA FALLS	SASKATOON
Growing Degree Days	1,872.0	2,472.7	1,619.9
Frost Free Period	188	172	117
Total Precipitation	1,215.4	942.3	348.8

Source: Canadian Climate Normals 1951-1980
Temperature and Precipitation Normals 1951-1980
Environment Canada

MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES COMPARED



SOUTH COASTAL ALR AREAS

TABLE 2
COURTENAY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE AREAS IN HECTARES
SUMMARY TABLE: LAND CAPABILITY CLASS BY PRESENT LAND USE

Present Land Use

	1	2	3	4	1-4	5	6	7	Water	Total	%Total
Forages and Grains	900	3,630	2,920	1,250	8,700	440	40	30	0	9,210	12
Horticulture	20	200	60	20	300	20	0	0	0	310	0
Grassland and Pasture	170	1,450	1,410	1,000	4,030	830	50	140	0	5,030	6
Forest	760	15,070	13,640	9,990	39,460	13,630	400	2,490	0	55,980	76
Non-Productive Lands	20	730	510	460	1,720	490	30	50	730	3,020	4
Total	1,870	21,080	18,540	12,720	54,210	15,410	520	2,710	730	73,550	
% Total	2	29	25	17	74	21	1	4	1		

Source: B.C. Land Inventory Report, Vol. 1, 2
Tallsman Project Inc., 1980.

SOUTH COASTAL LAND CAPABILITY

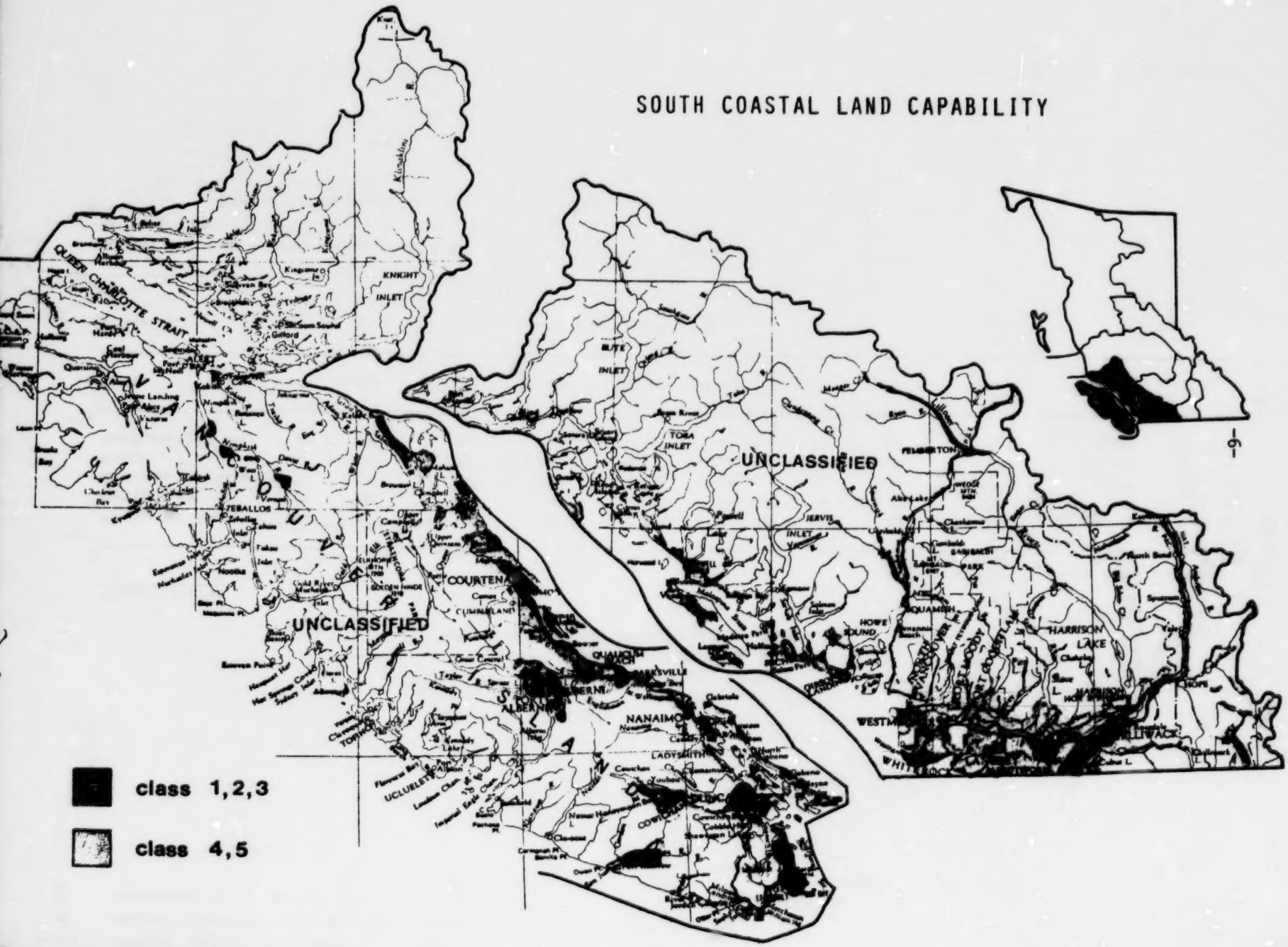


TABLE 3

SOUTH COASTAL AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGION

AGRICULTURE LAND CAPABILITY

Class	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Water Surface	Other*	Total
Hectares:										
Unimproved	6,073	61,583	84,984	117,681	257,206	72,854	818,677	1,275,901	7,601,844	10,296,804
Improved**	16,239	88,366	103,724	158,330	160,943	72,811	818,645	1,275,901	7,601,844	10,296,802
Percent:										
Unimproved	0.06	0.60	0.83	1.14	2.50	0.71	7.95	12.39	73.83	100.0
Improved**	0.16	0.86	1.01	1.54	1.56	0.71	7.95	12.39	73.83	100.0

*Other includes unclassified urban areas, national parks and unmapped portions of the district.
**Rating if land unit were irrigated and/or drained.

Source: Agriculture Land Capacity in British Columbia, ARDA Project #89077, 1976.

TABLE 4
COURTENAY REGION
AGRICULTURE AND GRAZING LEASE DATA IN HECTARES

Lease Type: Grazing

Year	No. of Leases	Area
1983	0	-
1982	1	17.08
1981	0	-
1980	0	-
1980-1983	1	17.08
TOTAL	1	17.08

Lease Type: Extensive Agriculture

1983	0	-
1982	1	61.69
1981	0	-
1980	1	18.21
1980-1983	2	79.90
TOTAL	3	112.60

Lease Type: Intensive Agriculture

1983	0	-
1982	0	-
1981	0	-
1980	1	1.04
1980-1983	1	1.04
TOTAL	3	14.85

Total lease area in Courtenay Region: 1980-1983: 98.02
Total lease area in Courtenay Region: 144.85

Source: B.C. Crown Land: Range and Cultivated Land Inventory, B.C.M.A. 1984

TABLE 5

USE OF LAND BY FARM SALES CLASS COURTENAY, 1981-IN HECTARES

	$250-1999	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Number of Farms	229	115	179	108	79	92	802
Total Area of Farms	2,579	1,615	3,617	3,214	2,860	6,943	20,827
Total Improved Land Area	1,238	766	1,802	1,663	1,830	4,236	11,535
Total Area Under Crop	560	385	1,041	840	1,162	3,185	7,173
Farms Reporting	153	71	138	90	73	85	610
Area of Improved Pasture	463	272	555	705	499	652	3,146
Farms Reporting	115	60	120	81	55	36	475
Area in Summer Fallow	25	11	28	-	40	50	153
Farms Reporting	18	7	13	-	11	8	57
Other Improved Land Area	190	99	179	118	130	348	1,064
Farms Reporting	158	85	127	83	58	71	582
Total Unimproved Land Area	1,346	848	1,815	1,550	1,029	2,707	9,294
Woodland Area	720	376	682	726	652	1,217	4,373
Farms Reporting	92	50	75	49	41	38	345
Other Unimproved Land Area	625	472	1,134	824	377	1,490	4,922
Farms Reporting	99	53	97	51	41	47	388

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture
December 1983

TABLE 6

COURTENAY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT:

NUMBER OF FARMS BY FARM SALES CLASS

SALES	$-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10,000+
1971	429	109	17	109
1976	461	88	59	141
1981	344	179	108	171

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 7

COURTENAY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY PRODUCT TYPE AND SALES -1981 CENSUS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Dairy	1	1	6	2	3	44	57
Cattle	73	38	76	61	35	6	289
Hogs	5	2	6	2	3	2	20
Poultry	68	26	26	6	3	4	133
Small Grains	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
Other Field Crops	14	6	7	4	7	5	43
Fruits and Vegetables	25	11	11	7	11	8	73
Miscellaneous Specialty	22	22	25	14	15	16	114
Livestock Combination	10	7	15	8	2	3	45
Other Combinations	10	2	6	4	-	4	26
TOTAL	229	115	179	108	79	92	802

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 8

COURTENAY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY SIZE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
1-2 Acres	17	3	4	2	4	-	30
3-9 Acres	71	30	31	9	9	6	156
10-69 Acres	115	64	104	58	26	18	385
70-129 Acres	16	10	24	24	16	20	110
130-179 Acres	7	5	9	8	12	15	56
180-239 Acres	2	3	3	1	7	14	30
240-399 Acres	1	-	3	4	5	9	22
400-559 Acres	-	-	-	1	-	5	6
560-759 Acres	-	-	1	1	-	3	5
760-1119 Acres	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
1120-1599 Acres	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
1600 Acres and Over	1	-	1	-	1	-	3
TOTAL	229	115	179	108	79	92	802

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

COURTENAY: AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE BASE

Farm Taxfiler's Income

The district has a relatively high proportion of low income operations. In 1981, 79 percent of farms had sales less than $10,000 compared to 60 percent for B.C. as a whole. Average gross farm income reported was $22,151 in 1981 compared to $39,959 provincially. A good proportion of agricultural activity in this district is on a small scale, often as a subsidiary activity to other employment. Almost all taxfilers in the Courtenay District reported some off farm income, with 57 percent reporting wages and salaries.

Agricultural Employment

Over 90 percent of reported days off farm work included non agricultural labour, approximately 88 percent of off farm work was reported from holdings with sales less than $10,000. Farm operators hired an average 18 weeks of farm labour, compared with 24 weeks for the province as a whole. In 1981, farms with sales greater than $50,000 provided 87 percent of agricultural employment.

Agricultural Land Development Act

Between 1971 and 1981 the number of agricultural holdings has increased 21 percent in the Courtenay District. Land clearing now accounts for 66 percent of A.L.D.A. expenditures, clearing costs per hectare nearly doubled over the period 1976-81. Drainage also represents a major area where A.L.D.A. funds are utilized. Operators report using 3,532 tonnes of fertilizer on 6,878 hectares of agricultural land in 1981.

Farm Capital

The total nominal value of farm capital has increased from $118 million in 1976 to $257 million in 1981. The per farm average rose from $158,000 to $320,431 over the same period. The proportion of investment in land and buildings has remained relatively constant since 1976. In 1981, total farm capital per hectare was $12,334, three times the provincial average.

Age of Operators

The age distribution of farmers remained relatively constant over the period 1976-81 with the largest increase in the 25-34 age group, the total number of farmers increased 7 percent during this period and now represents 4.3 percent of the provincial total.

TABLE 9

COURTENAY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY CAPITAL VALUE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

Capital Value	Sales $250-2499	$2500-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Less Than $10,000	3	-	-	-	3
$10,000-24,999	4	-	-	1	5
$25,000-49,999	13	6	-	1	20
$50,000-99,999	64	31	6	1	102
$100,000-199,999	144	90	11	3	248
$200,000-499,999	101	131	37	25	294
$500,000 AND OVER	15	29	25	61	130
TOTAL	344	287	79	92	802

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 10

TOTAL FARM CAPITAL BY FARM SALES, 1981: COURTENAY DISTRICT

	$250-2499	$2500-9999	$10000-49999	$50000+	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	344	287	79	92	802
TOTAL CAPITAL VALUE	64,792,898	74,953,131	34,859,780	82,379,926	256,985,735
VALUE OF LAND & BUILDINGS	59,502,489	67,496,139	31,282,498	64,921,100	223,202,225
VALUE OF MACHINERY	3,979,854	5,097,556	2,277,500	8,741,099	20,096,009
VALUE OF LIVESTOCK-POULTRY	1,310,555	2,359,436	1,299,782	8,717,727	13,687,500
AVERAGE CAPITAL VALUE	188,351	261,161	441,263	895,434	
RATIO OF CAPITAL VALUE TO MIDDLE VALUE OF FARM SALES CLASS	137	42	15	12	

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 11

1983 SALES OF FARMS-SOUTH COASTAL REGION

Area Name	No. Pcls.	Hectares	Sale Price $000s	Value of Improvements	Residual Value	Actual Value	Assessment Sales Ratio	Mkt Value $/Hectare
Saanich	3	53	1,019	$140,500	$878,500	$164,294	0.187	16,517
Capital	1	1.7	115	10,250	104,750	4,536	0.043	64,159
Cowichan Valley	13	96	2,123	514,150	1,608,850	248,800	0.155	16,754
Nanaimo	3	21	379	12,100	366,900	94,400	0.257	17,362
Port Alberni	3	142	676	262,050	413,905	267,127	0.645	2,906
Courtenay	4	17	401	69,350	331,650	55,475	0.167	19,297
Sunshine Coast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Shore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vancouver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burnaby-New West	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Richmond-Delta	17	210	9,107	923,100	8,183,873	902,688	0.110	39,019
Coquitlam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dewdney-Alouette	25	181	3,747	860,350	2,886,626	969,974	0.336	15,914
Surrey-White Rock	12	74	2,897	462,300	2,434,408	701,085	0.288	32,895
Lang/Mats/Abbots.	85	696	23,302	2,793,000	20,509,091	4,331,537	0.210	29,458
Chilliwack	29	131	4,018	1,199,150	2,818,576	671,898	0.238	21,550

Source: B.C. Assessment Authority.

TABLE 12

AVERAGE AGE OF FARMERS: COURTENAY DISTRICT

	1976	1981	CHANGE
Under 25	15	6	-9
25 - 34	111	152	+41
35 - 44	157	176	+29
45 - 54	210	210	-
55 - 59	86	89	+3
60- 64	74	64	-10
65 - 69	48	64	+6
70 & Over	48	51	+3
TOTAL	749	802	+53
TOTAL PERCENT OF B.C.	4.1	4.3	

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 13
COURTENAY DISTRICT
FARM TAXFILER'S INCOME 1980.

	# of Farm Taxfilers	Average Gross Farm Income $'000s	Total Gross Farm Income $'000s	# Reporting Farm Net Income	Average Net Farm Income	Total Net Farm Income $'000s	# Reporting Wages & Salaries	Average Wage & Salary $'000s	# Reporting Off Farm Income	Average Off Farm Income $'000s	Total Off Farm Income $'000s	Average Income All Sources $'000s	Total Income All Sources $'000s
Nanaimo	250	19.8	4,949.0	247	1,390	347.5	133	9.8	240	17.2	4,300.3	18.6	4,647.8
Nanaimo City	215	18.8	4,057.7	212	(466)	(100.2)	115	11.4	211	21.1	4,535.9	20.6	4,435.7
Alberni	10	3.4	34.2	10	2,781	27.8	4	8.8	10	4.9	48.9	7.7	76.7
Port Alberni	85	35.7	3,033.2	85	(124)	(10.5)	51	12.5	83	19.7	1,674.4	19.6	1,663.9
Comox-Strathcona	430	23.6	10,163.1	425	(1,037)	(445.9)	263	12.2	421	18.7	8,056.5	17.7	7,610.6
Mount Waddington	25	10.7	266.3	24	(1,487)	(37.2)	17	13.9	25	20.1	503.4	18.7	466.2

Source: Revenue Canada.

TABLE 14

OFF-FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY TYPE OF WORK & FARM SALES, 1981: COURTENAY

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	229	115	179	108	79	92	802
DAYS OF OFF-FARM WORK	27,006	13,374	22,842	11,830	7,112	2,768	84,932
FARMS REPORTING	140	69	111	60	45	18	443
AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK	1,375	844	1,497	1,695	1,132	865	7,408
FARMS REPORTING	16	9	14	10	9	6	64
NON-AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK	25,631	12,530	21,345	10,135	5,980	1,903	77,524
FARMS REPORTING	131	62	104	50	38	12	397

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 15
COURTENAY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
OFF FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY NUMBER OF DAYS AND FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,000	$50,000+	TOTAL
1-6 Days	4	1	1	1	1	-	8
7-12	2	1	-	2	2	1	8
13-24	2	1	3	-	1	1	8
25-48	5	3	2	2	1	-	13
49-72	6	3	6	2	2	-	19
73-96	8	3	2	3	3	2	21
97-126	8	4	2	3	7	5	29
127-156	5	4	7	1	5	-	22
157-228	41	26	35	23	14	6	146
229-365	59	23	53	23	9	3	170
Total	140	69	111	60	45	18	443

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 16

HIRED AGRICULTURAL LABOUR BY FARM SALES, 1981: COURTENAY

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	229	115	179	108	79	92	802
TOTAL WEEKS OF HIRED LABOUR	132	368	406	228	833	12,712	14,679
FARMS REPORTING	20	15	38	36	44	75	228
WEEKS OF YEAR-ROUND LABOUR	54	64	125	34	421	7,478	8,176
FARMS REPORTING	2	3	6	5	12	48	76
WEEKS OF SEASONAL LABOUR	78	304	281	194	412	5,234	6,503
FARMS REPORTING	18	12	35	31	35	57	188

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 17

AGRICULTURE LAND DEVELOPMENT ACT WORK DONE, 1976 - 1981: COURTENAY DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

	CLEARED			BROKEN			IRRIGATION	DRAINAGE	OTHER	TOTAL
Fiscal Year	Hectares	Cost/ Hectare $	Cost $'000	Hectares	Cost/ Hectare $	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	$'000
1976	101	748	76	28	265	7	36	-	10	129
1977	19	1,390	27	-	-	-	14	7	6	54
1978	73	1,023	75	22	640	14	4	3	5	101
1979	37	1,303	48	36	361	13	17	19	22	119
1980	32	1,344	43	34	500	17	15	10	5	40
1981	35	1,486	52	14	500	7	-	16	5	79

SOURCE: British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food, A.L.D.A. Branch Records

TABLE 18

SPRAYING, DUSTING AND IRRIGATION, 1981: COURTENAY

Spraying and Dusting (any)	92
Weed Control (Hec.)	525
Farms Reporting	66
For Insect Control (Hec.)	228
Farms Reporting	48
Irrigation - Total Area (Hec.)	1,360
Farms Reporting	157
Sprinkler System - Total Area (Hec.)	1,303
Farms Reporting	136

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 19

FERTILIZER USE, 1981: COURTENAY

Total Area (hectares)	6,878
Tonnes	3,532
No. Reports of Any Use	439
Total Cropland (Hec.)	1,757
Tonnes	1,249
Reporting	169
Total Tame Hay (Hec.)	3,705
Tonnes	1,743
Reporting	284
Total Improved Pasture (Hec.)	1,416
Tonnes	540
Reporting	189

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

COURTENAY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Field Crops

Field crop production was valued at $2.1 million in 1981 with potatoes and other field crops accounting for the majority of this total. Livestock producers are becoming more aware of the importance of growing their own forage in the face of rising prices and freight rates. As a result the area planted in fodder crops has risen by 8 percent to 6,042 hectares over the period 1976-81. Eighty percent of field crop area is in hay; the remainder is mostly fodder crops along with some potato and grain acreage. Operations with sales greater than $50,000 account for more than 83 percent of field crop area.

Field vegetable production was valued at $580,000 in 1981. A total of 156 hectares are devoted to this commodity in the district, the majority of which is concentrated in the higher sales classes. Sweet corn, cauliflower and carrots are among the most important vegetables in terms of acreage.

Small Fruit

Small fruit production, mainly strawberries and other berries were valued at $372,000 in 1981. Most of the acreage planted in small fruits is concentrated in higher sales class holdings. Tree fruits accounted for $216,000 of 1981 farm cash receipts. Apple cultivation accounts for 65 percent of tree fruit area. Approximately 90 percent of tree fruit cultivation occurs on farms with sales less than $10,000. The value of nursery/floriculture crops totalled $1.4 million in 1981 and the operators in the district have 38,576 square metres of greenhouse area up from 25,446 square metres in 1976.

Livestock and Related Products

Sales of livestock and products for 1981 were valued at $14 million or 64 percent of total farm cash receipts. Dairy products accounted for more than $9 million of this total or 4.4 percent of provincial dairy sales. Total cattle herd size increased by 21 percent to 15,443 head over the period 1976-81. The major limitation to beef production is a shortage of grazing area. However, many farmers are turning to feedlot operations and using increasing volumes of corn silage, rather than more grazing space. Hog production has shown significant expansion for several consecutive years, with the hog population increasing to 6,400 in 1981, an increase of 140 percent since 1976.

The 1981 census recorded 110,000 chickens, up 59 percent from 69,000 in 1976. Over 57 percent of this population is concentrated in the $50,000+ sales class. Sheep production has also experienced rapid growth over the last few years with the population more than doubling during the period 1976-81. More than 87 percent of farms listing sheep operations as a primary activity have sales less than $10,000.

TABLE 20

ESTIMATE OF FARM CASH RECEIPTS, 1981

COURTENAY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

COMMODITY	FARM CASH RECEIPTS $'000	PERCENTAGE	PERCENTAGE OF B.C. OUTPUT
Wheat	0.88	0.00	0.01
Oats	9.59	0.04	0.33
Barley	14.00	0.06	0.17
CWB Payments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Canola	1.97	0.01	0.10
Potatoes	1,138.40	5.22	6.20
Small Fruits	372.27	1.71	0.98
Field Vegetables	579.98	2.66	1.99
Floriculture/Nursery	1,383.74	6.35	2.70
Forest Prod.	50.13	0.23	2.14
Cattle & Calves	1,460.98	6.70	1.19
Income Ins.	212.49	0.98	
Hogs	1,301.74	5.97	2.51
Income Ins.	2.36	0.01	
Sheep	158.29	0.73	6.00
Income Ins.	9.30	0.04	
Poultry & Eggs	1,473.44	6.76	1.09
Income Ins.	0.55	0.00	
Dairy Products	9,613.93	44.12	4.43
C.D.C. Subsidy	383.84	1.76	
Honey	179.89	0.83	3.53
Tree Fruit	216.06	0.99	0.40
Income Ins.	92.32	0.42	
Hothouse	1,442.27	6.62	4.98
Income Ins.	50.62	0.23	
Other	1,641.07	7.53	2.40
TOTAL	21,790.10		

SOURCE: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 1983.

TABLE 21

AREA IN FIELD CROPS BY FARM SALES, 1981: COURTENAY-IN HECTARES

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Number of Farms	229	115	179	108	79	92	802
Flaxseed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canola	-	-	24	-	-	-	24
Farms Reporting	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Tame Hay - Total	456	325	795	716	963	2,444	5,698
Farms Reporting	107	57	112	77	53	59	465
Alfalfa and Mixtures	20	20	34	7.3	11	15	108
Farms Reporting	9	7	9	2	2	3	32
Other Tame Hay	436	304	761	709	952	2,429	5,590
Farms Reporting	103	53	110	77	53	58	454
Oats for Fodder	22	16	38	38	24	34	172
Farms Reporting	11	10	18	10	7	5	61
Other Fodder Crops	22	12	7.7	20	-	111	172
Farms Reporting	7	3	3	4	-	7	24

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 22

COURTENAY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

AREA OF VEGETABLES ON FARMS, IN HECTARES- 1981 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	229	115	179	108	79	92	802
Vegetables	15	4.6	14	6.2	21	96	156
Farms Reporting	21	8	14	8	9	14	74
Asparagus	1.1	0.04	0.08	-	-	-	1.2
Farms Reporting	3	1	2	-	-	-	6
Beans	0.32	0.12	0.45	0.28	0.36	1.7	3.3
Farms Reporting	4	3	6	2	4	3	22
Beets	0.53	0.04	1.1	0.69	1.3	0.81	4.5
Farms Reporting	5	1	9	3	6	3	27
Broccoli	2.2	-	0.16	-	0.24	1.8	4.4
Farms Reporting	2	-	4	-	3	4	13
Cabbage	0.24	0.24	1.9	0.08	0.61	7.0	10
Farms Reporting	2	2	8	1	4	8	25
Carrots	0.69	0.08	0.28	1.1	1.3	8.5	12.0
Farms Reporting	4	2	7	3	4	8	28
Cauliflower	2.6	-	0.12	-	1.1	12	16
Farms Reporting	3	-	3	-	5	8	19
Cucumbers	0.57	0.24	0.65	0.41	1.7	3.2	6.8
Farms Reporting	6	2	5	1	7	6	27
Green Peas	0.28	0.24	0.2	0.08	0.24	2.1	3.1
Farms Reporting	3	2	5	1	2	3	16
Lettuce	1.3	0.04	0.32	-	2.2	3.0	6.8
Farms Reporting	4	1	5	-	4	5	19
Onions (Dry)	0.28	0.04	0.12	-	0.24	0.2	0.89
Farms Reporting	3	1	3	-	2	1	10
Rutabagas	-	-	1.9	0.41	1.5	7.3	11
Farms Reporting	-	-	2	1	3	7	13
Sweet Corn	3.6	3.2	2.8	0.93	6.4	31	48
Farms Reporting	13	8	9	3	7	9	49
Tomatoes	0.57	0.28	1.2	0.2	1.5	0.45	4.2
Farms Reporting	6	3	8	1	7	2	27
Other Vegetables	0.93	0.04	2.4	2.1	2.1	17	24
Farms Reporting	7	1	9	4	6	8	35

TABLE 23

COURTENAY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

AREA IN SMALL FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	229	115	179	108	79	92	802
Small Fruits	4.7	1.6	3.8	6.1	14	25	55
Farms Reporting	19	6	7	8	7	6	53
Strawberries	0.89	0.89	1.7	4.6	5.0	15	29
Farms Reporting	7	2	2	4	3	4	22
Grapes	0.24	-	-	-	-	-	0.24
Farms Reporting	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Other Berries	3.5	0.73	2.1	1.5	8.8	9.1	26
Farms Reporting	13	4	6	6	6	4	39

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 24
COURTENAY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN TREE FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	229	115	179	108	79	92	802
Tree Fruits	13	8.4	14	5.8	5.3	0.2	46
Farms Reporting	20	8	13	4	4	1	50
Apple	7.9	5.0	9.2	4.7	3.2	0.2	30
Farms Reporting	19	8	13	4	4	1	49
No. of Apple Trees	2,212	2,037	5,241	532	121	55	10,198
Pear	1.9	0.61	1.1	0.45	0.36	-	4.4
Farms Reporting	15	5	11	3	4	-	38
Number of Pear Trees	146	36	86	54	31	-	353
Plum and Prune	1.3	1.9	1.4	0.45	0.53	-	5.5
Farms Reporting	14	7	11	3	4	-	39
Number of Trees	92	71	112	51	67	-	393
Cherry (Sweet)	1.2	0.32	0.97	0.08	0.89	-	3.4
Farms Reporting	12	4	9	1	4	-	30
No. of Cherry Trees	120	15	61	5	159	-	360
Cherry (Sour)	0.16	0.36	0.16	0.04	0.08	-	0.81
Farms Reporting	3	4	3	1	2	-	13
Number of Trees	13	22	7	2	4	-	48
Peach	0.28	0.12	0.24	0.04	0.28	-	0.97
Farms reporting	7	3	4	1	3	-	18
No. of Peach Trees	15	5	34	2	5	-	61
Apricot	0.16	0.12	0.57	-	-	-	0.85
Farms reporting	3	3	4	-	-	-	10
No. of Apricot Trees	17	7	25	-	-	-	49

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 25
COURTENAY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN SPECIALTY CROPS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	344	287	79	92	802
Nusery Products	n.a.	1.9	n.a.	30	34
Farms Reporting	5	7	2	8	22
Greenhouse Sq. Metres	5,498	9,930	2,681	20,467.	38,576
Farms Reporting	15	14	9	15	53

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 26
COURTENAY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
LIVESTOCK NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	344	287	79	92	802
Cattle-Total Number	1,860	3,629	1,861	8,093	15,443
Farms Reporting	212	217	55	61	545
Cows-Total Number	612	1,318	682	4,126	6,738
Farms Reporting	153	181	42	60	436
Dairy Cows-Number	88	138	80	3,648	3,954
Farms Reporting	59	52	13	48	172
Beef Cows-Number	524	1,180	602	478	2,784
Farms Reporting	113	153	36	18	320
Heifers-Total Number	392	593	301	1,879	3,165
Farms Reporting	132	154	42	56	384
Steers-Number	184	384	172	334	1,074
Farms Reporting	84	117	32	15	248
Bulls-Number	77	113	55	69	314
Farms Reporting	55	91	28	43	217
Calves-Number	595	1,221	651	1,685	4,152
Farms Reporting	158	187	45	59	449
Pigs-Total Number	342	426	900	4,721	6,389
Farms Reporting	66	48	10	6	130
Sheep-Total Number	1,114	1,624	920	363	4,021
Farms Reporting	46	43	9	4	102
Horses-Number	327	367	110	64	868
Farms Reporting	98	91	22	24	235

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

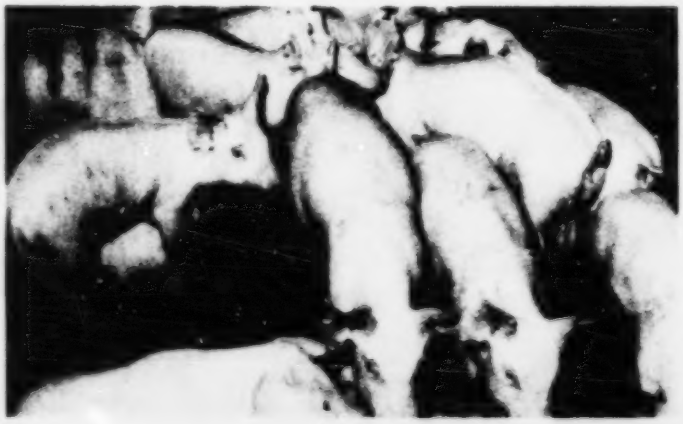


TABLE 27
COURTENAY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
POULTRY NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	344	287	79	92	802
Hens/Chickens Total No.	13,639	11,033	21,677	63,411	109,760
Farms Reporting	226	169	34	29	458
Turkeys-Number	351	244	n.a.	n.a.	845
Farms Reporting	27	15	5	2	49
Geese-Number	396	452	74	28	950
Farms Reporting	54	42	7	4	107
Ducks-Number	713	623	113	97	1,546
Farms Reporting	70	57	8	7	142

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

APPENDIX

TERMS USED IN THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Census-farm areas

The area of census-farms reported for each subdivision represents the area of land operated by farmers whose headquarters are in the subdivision.

Crown lands, usually pasture land, which were operated under a lease agreement with federal, provincial or municipal governments, are reported as part of the farming operation of the person to whom the land was leased. However, land which was used under a per head grazing permit or fee is not included.

Large areas of timber land or other non-agricultural land held by the operator, but operated apart from the farm business, are excluded.

Use of Land

All farm land is classified according to use under two major divisions: improved and unimproved land.

Improved Land

1) Crop land - Included in this item is the total area of crop land sown for harvest in the census year. Crop land includes the total area of all field crops, plus the areas of fruits, vegetables, greenhouses, mushroom houses and nursery products. Because some crops are reported in fractions of a hectare, there may be slight differences between the sum of the individual crop areas and the total crop land.

2) Improved pasture - All land which was being used for pasture or grazing and which has had some improvements made to it in recent years is included. Improvements would include cultivation, drainage, irrigation, fertilization, seeding down or spraying.

3) Summer fallow - The enumerator was instructed to include in this item land from which no crop was to be harvested during the census year, but which was to be cultivated or worked during the year for weed control and/or for moisture conservation.

4) Other improved land - This item includes the area of barnyards, home gardens, lanes and roads on farms. It also includes areas of cultivated land that were lying idle, being neither summer-fallowed nor cropped, and areas of new breaking that had not been seeded to a crop.

Unimproved Land

The area of unimproved land consists of the total areas reported for 1) woodland and 2) other unimproved land.

1) Woodland - This includes farm woodlots, land leased for cutting, sugar bush and cut-over land with young growth which has or will have value as timber, fuelwood or Christmas trees. The area of trees planted for wind-breaks was also to be included. It excludes large timber tracts which are run as a separate business from the farm. There is some evidence that changes in the area of this item between censuses may be due to differences in interpretation. This would be particularly true in areas of bushland.

2) Other unimproved land - Areas of native pasture or hay land that had not been cultivated, bush pasture, grazing or waste land, sloughs, marsh and rocky land et cetera, are all included in this item.

TERMS USED IN LAND CAPABILITY RATINGS

Class 1	land is capable of producing the very widest range of vegetables, cereal grains, forages, berry fruits and numerous specialty crops. Soil and climatic conditions are opitimum.
Class 2	land is capable of producing a wide range of regional crops as above with some differences in variety due to minor restrictions of soils and climate.
Class 3	land is capable of producing a fairly wide range of regional crops under good management practices. Soils and/or climate limitations are somewhat restrictive.
Class 4	land is capable of a restricted range of regional crops such as hardy cereal grains, hardy vegetables, and forages. Soil and climate limitations demand special management considerations.
Class 5	land is capable of production of perennial forage crops only. Soil and/or climate restrictions severely limit the land's capability.
Class 6	land is natural rangeland. Soil and/or climate limitations preclude cultivation, but the land may be important in its natural state as grazing land.
Class 7	land has no agricultural capability whatsoever.
UNIMPROVED	These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory dry-farm ratings. They do not reflect either present land use or the state of readiness for cultivation, but only the potential capability if used for agriculture.
IMPROVED	These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory irrigated ratings. They reflect the capabitity for agriculture if the land unit were irrigated and/or drained. They do not indicate whether the land unit is presently either irrigated or drained.
WATER SURFACES	This category includes all non-seasonal lakes and rivers. It also includes that part of the Strait of Georgia, between Vancouver Island and the Mainland , that falls within latitudes 49 N to 51 N.
OTHER	This category includes all regions of the province that were not mapped due to limited agricultural potential, national parks, and unmapped urban areas.

South Coastal Region

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